

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp for emitting light with a predetermined light distribution pattern, comprising:

a semiconductor light emitting element comprising a substantially linear light emitting area for generating said light therefrom; and

an optical device for forming at least a part of a cut line to determine a boundary between bright and dark with regard to said light distribution pattern by reflecting or deflecting said light generated by said semiconductor light emitting element and projecting a shape of said light emitting area,

wherein the substantially linear light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and an edge of the rectangular surface defines a portion of the cut line.

2. (Original) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of said semiconductor light emitting elements being arranged in a row in a direction corresponding to at least a part of said cut line,

wherein said optical device forms at least a part of said cut line by projecting said shape of said light emitting area with regard to each of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting elements towards positions arranged in a row over at least a part of said cut line.

3. (Previously Presented) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein:
said semiconductor light emitting element further comprises an active layer; and
said light emitting area has a groove for emitting said light from at least a part of an opening of said groove, said groove substantially linearly extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element, the depth of said groove reaching at least a part of said active layer.

4. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp for emitting light with a predetermined light distribution pattern, comprising:

an active layer, and
a light emitting area having a groove for emitting said light from at least a part of an opening of said groove, said groove extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element in a direction corresponding to at least a part of a cut line to determine a boundary between bright and dark with regard to said light distribution pattern, the depth of said groove reaching at least a part of said active layer,

wherein the light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and an edge of the rectangular surface defines a portion of the cut line.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the substantially linear light emitting area comprises a rectangular upper surface of the semiconductor light emitting element,~~ the vehicular headlamp further comprising:

a first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular ~~upper~~ surfaces, wherein ~~first long~~ edges of the rectangular ~~upper~~ surfaces of the first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a length portion of a first cut line; and

a second row, arranged at an angle to said first row, of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular ~~upper~~ surfaces, wherein ~~first long~~ edges of the rectangular ~~upper~~ surfaces of the second row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a length portion of a second cut line.

7. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements; and

a second row, arranged at a first angle to said first row, of the light emitting elements,

wherein said optical device forms a length of a first cut line by projecting the shapes of the light emitting areas of the first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements, and

wherein said optical device forms a length of a second cut line, arranged at a second angle to the first cut line, by projecting the shapes of the light emitting areas of the second row of the semiconductor light emitting elements.

8. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 3, wherein the substantially linearly extending groove comprises a thin rectangular shape on upper surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and ~~a first long~~ an edge of the ~~thin rectangular shape~~ groove defines a ~~first length~~ portion of the cut line.

9 (Previously Presented) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a lens.

10. (Previously Presented) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a reflector.

11. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 4, wherein the groove comprises a thin rectangular shape on the surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and ~~a first long~~ an edge of the ~~thin rectangular shape~~ groove defines a ~~first length~~ portion of the cut line.

12. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 4, wherein the groove comprises a thin rectangular shape on the surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; the vehicular headlamp further comprising:

a first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements with thin rectangular grooves, wherein ~~first long~~ edges of the thin rectangular grooves of the first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a length of a first cut line; and

a second row, arranged at an angle to said first row, of the semiconductor light emitting elements with thin rectangular grooves, wherein ~~first long~~ edges of the thin rectangular grooves of the second row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a length of a second cut line.

13. (Previously Presented) A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 4, wherein the vehicular headlamp comprises a lens for projecting the light emitted from the groove extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element.

14. (Previously Presented) A semiconductor light emitting element used for a vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 4, wherein the vehicular headlamp comprises a reflector for projecting the light emitted from the groove extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element.

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp, comprising:

a semiconductor light emitting element comprising an elongated light emitting area for emitting light in an elongated pattern;

an optical device for reflecting or deflecting the elongated pattern of emitted light[[:]], and for projecting the elongated pattern of emitted light to define a ~~first-length~~ portion of a headlamp cut line, the ~~first-length~~ portion of the headlamp cut line being formed by a ~~first~~ an edge, ~~in the elongated direction~~, of the elongated pattern of emitted light,

wherein the elongated light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and an edge of the rectangular surface defines a portion of the cut line.

16. (Currently Amended) A vehicular headlamp for emitting light with a predetermined light distribution pattern, comprising:

a plurality of semiconductor light emitting elements, each comprising a substantially linear light emitting area for generating said light therefrom, and arranged so that their light emitting areas are arranged in an approximately straight line; and

an optical device for forming at least a part of a cut line to determine a boundary between bright and dark with regard to said light distribution pattern by reflecting or deflecting said light generated by said semiconductor light emitting element and projecting a shape of said light emitting area,

wherein the light emitting area emits a light through at least a part of an opening formed on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element, said opening extending substantially linearly along said semiconductor light emitting element, and

wherein the substantially linear light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element; and an edge of the rectangular surface defines a portion of the cut line.

17. (Previously Presented) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a plurality of said semiconductor light emitting elements being arranged in a row in a direction corresponding to at least a part of said cut line,

wherein said optical device forms at least a part of said cut line by projecting said shape of said light emitting area with regard to each of said plurality of semiconductor light emitting elements towards positions arranged in a row over at least a part of said cut line.

18. (Previously Presented) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein:
said semiconductor light emitting element further comprises an active layer; and
said light emitting area has a groove for emitting said light from at least a part of an opening of said groove, said groove substantially linearly extending on a surface of said semiconductor light emitting element, the depth of said groove reaching at least a part of said active layer.

Please add the following new claims 19 and 20:

19. (New) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 15, wherein the elongated light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element, the vehicular headlamp further comprising:

a first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular surfaces, wherein edges of the rectangular surfaces of the first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a portion of a first cut line; and

a second row, arranged at an angle to said first row, of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular surfaces, wherein edges of the rectangular surfaces of the second row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a portion of a second cut line.

20. (New) A vehicular headlamp as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substantially linear light emitting area comprises a rectangular surface of the semiconductor light emitting element, the vehicular headlamp further comprising:

a first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular surfaces, wherein edges of the rectangular surfaces of the first row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a portion of a first cut line; and

a second row, arranged at an angle to said first row, of the semiconductor light emitting elements with rectangular surfaces, wherein edges of the rectangular surfaces of the second row of the semiconductor light emitting elements define a portion of a second cut line.